

March 26, 1954

AIRMAIL

Professor Adrien Albert  
Department of Medical Chemistry  
The Australian National University  
183 Euston Road  
London, N.W. 1  
England

Dear Professor Albert:

Thank you for your letter of March 3 and for your shipment of chemicals which arrived in perfect condition a few days ago. You will, I am sure, be interested to hear that the capacity of these compounds to agglutinate our bacteria corresponds precisely to their antibacterial index as recorded in your papers. We are currently attempting to confirm the bactericidal activity of these compounds on our particular bacterial strains in order to solidify the obvious correlation. We are also extending some of our observations on pH effects along the lines of your remarks.

In view of the work of Weibull and others on the chemistry of the flagella, it appears almost certain that the reacting molecules are pure protein. I would not venture to suggest the detailed elements of the structure of the flagellar proteins of the two phases that would result in their different agglutinability despite their common capacity to bind the dye.

We will be happy, of course, to keep you informed of any substantial further developments in this work. As I indicated in my previous letter, however, I feel that we have very nearly exhausted our own capabilities and would be quite pleased if the more detailed physico-chemico analysis could be taken up elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Associate Professor of Genetics

JL:mg